

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

SUBJECT 1. Coke and Pig Iron Production
2. Klement Gottwald Ironworks at Kuncice

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1. Czechoslovakia is short of good coke coal. Coke production in 1951 amounted to 4.5 million tons. Most of the nation's coke plants are located in the Ostrava and Karvinna mining regions. They handle a total of about 15,000 tons of coal a day. In addition, a plant in Kladno cokes 2,000 tons of coal daily.
2. During 1951, pig iron production amounted to about 3.2* million tons. A new metallurgical complex, the Klement Gottwald Ironworks, is being constructed at Kuncice near Vitkovice. It will include four new blast furnaces, a steel works, rolling mill, power plant, and a modern coking plant. In June 1951, one blast furnace was almost completed and the foundations for the other three were being laid; in February 1952, the DDR Zentralamt für Forschung und Technik learned that the first furnace had been finished. With the completion of the Kuncice complex, CSR iron production is scheduled to increase to about six million tons a year, while the coke production is to rise to about 4.8 tons annually.
3. The unsatisfactory Czechoslovakian coke situation can best be shown by the type of coal with which the government is planning to have the Kuncice coke plant supplied. Technicians have separated coking coal into the following four quality categories:
 - a) First quality: fatty, furnishes best foundry and blast furnace coke
 - b) Second quality: produces good blast furnace coke
 - c) Gas-containing coal with good caking power
 - d) Bituminous coal with no caking power: can only be used for coke production in combination with one of the other

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types.

The Kuncice coke plant is to be supplied with a mixture of 85 percent gas-containing coal with good caking power, and 15 percent bituminous coal.

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Comment: The Five-Year Plan calls for production of 2.7 million tons of pig iron in 1953.

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